

Appl. No. 10/825,792
Docket No. 9215
Amdt. dated April 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on January 25, 2007
Customer No. 27752

APR 30 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;

the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;

the top face comprising a brushing surface;

the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;

the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts;

the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 14, wherein the plurality of projections are generally in rows generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the plurality of projections cover a substantial portion of the bottom face.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 15, wherein the entire plurality of projections are uniform in shape.

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Claim 18 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of projections are nubs.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 20, wherein the head further comprises outwardly extending elastomeric ridge-like elements.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 21, wherein the ridge-like elements are arcuate.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 12, wherein the handle comprises a motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 23, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;

the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;

the top face comprising a brushing surface;

the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;

the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts;

the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows transverse to the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the transverse rows are staggered.

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Claim 26 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 27, wherein the head further comprises arcuate elastomeric ridge-like elements.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 25, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:
an elongate handle and a head;
the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface;
the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging surface; and a side wall between the brushing surface and the massaging surface;
the brushing surface comprising a generally circular-shaped collection of bristle tufts;
the massaging surface comprising a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are generally oriented in rows parallel with the longitudinal axis of the brush, and wherein the parallel rows are staggered.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 30, wherein the handle comprises a motor, wherein the motor is operatively connected to the brushing surface and the massaging surface.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 31, wherein the motor imparts a pulsing motion to the massaging surface.

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Claim 33 (currently amended): A toothbrush comprising:

an elongate handle and a head;
the head comprising a longitudinal axis, a top face, and a bottom face;
the top face comprising a brushing surface;
the bottom face comprising a generally flat elastomeric massaging plate wherein a side wall exists between the brushing surface and a surface of the massaging plate;
the brushing surface comprising a collection of bristle tufts;
wherein said massaging plate surface ~~the surface of the massaging plate~~ comprises a plurality of projections; and
wherein the plurality of projections are oriented in staggered rows.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 33, wherein the massaging plate is secured to the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 34, wherein the massaging plate has a top surface that is generally coplanar with the bottom face of the toothbrush head.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 35, wherein the massaging plate is formed from an elastomeric material and the toothbrush head is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer, cellulose acetate propionate, a thermoplastic elastomer, a thermoplastic olefin, a thermoplastic polyolefin, ethylene-vinylacetate copolymer, ethylene propylene rubber, and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 36, wherein the massaging plate is elongate.

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Claim 38 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 37, wherein the plurality of projections are formed from an elastomeric material.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The toothbrush of Claim 38, wherein the top face further comprises a plurality of elastomeric elements.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of projections are generally conical nubs.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The toothbrush of Claim 40 ~~4~~, wherein the bottom face is generally planar.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The toothbrush of Claim 41, wherein the top face is generally planar.

Claim 43 (canceled)